

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: **Granger** Attorney Ref.: **1759.053**
Serial No.: **to be assigned** Group Art Unit: **to be assigned**
Filed: **Herewith** Examiner: **to be assigned**
Title: **SAFETY DEVICE FOR STRIP DISPENSING MACHINE**
To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Preliminary Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.115

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered prior to examination of the above-referenced application, which corresponds to PCT application PCT/FR00/00728.

AMENDMENTS

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification

On page 1, line 3, after the title, please amend the specification under 37 CFR 1.121(b)(1) by inserting the following paragraph:

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Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of PCT application PCT/FR00/00728 filed on March 23, 2000, which claimed the priority of French application FR 99.04371 filed April 2, 1999.

In the Drawings

Please replace as-filed drawing sheet 1/1 with the attached drawing sheet 1/1.

In the Claims:

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Amended) Control and safety device allowing the ejection of a strip of material from a machine for dispensing strips comprising a drum (4) and a safety shaft (9) which shuts off the lower opening (11) through which the strip of material passes as it leaves the housing and drum, said drum and said shaft being linked by means of transmission (10) comprising at least one belt, characterised in that said transmission means (10) is float mounted between drum (4) and shaft (9), the central part of the shaft that accommodates said belt and faces the groove on the drum being designed with a dolly axle (9a) configuration having a dimension that exceeds the width of the groove (4b) on drum (4) so as to allow sideways, slanting deflection of the belt over a limited amplitude (∞), thus tracking the direction in which the strip of paper is pulled longitudinally out of the dispensing machine by the user.

4. (Amended) Device as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the dolly-axle shape (9a) of the shaft is laterally locked by the walls (9b) of shaft (9) forming a shoulder and limit stop.

Please introduce the following new claims:

5. (New) A device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the dolly-axle shape (9a) of the shaft is laterally locked by the walls (9b) of shaft (9) forming a shoulder and limit stop.

6. (New) A device as claimed in claim 3 wherein the dolly-axle shape (9a) of the shaft is laterally locked by the walls (9b) of shaft (9) forming a shoulder and limit stop.

7. (New) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one belt consists of a belt.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments, and consideration of the application, as amended. By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have corrected errors in the drawings and removed a multiple dependency in the claims. New claims corresponding to the removed multiple dependencies were introduced.

Drawing sheet 1/1 has been amended to insert the section line 2-2 to Figure 1 as referred to at 4:30 of the as-filed application and to correct the location of the dimension arrows of diameter D1 in Figure 3 as described at 6:22 of the as-filed

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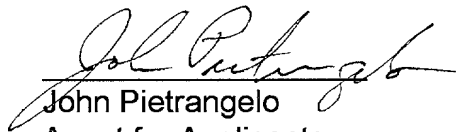
application. These amendments are clearly identified in red in the attached mark-up of as-filed drawing sheet 1/1.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **Version with markings to show changes made.**

An early and favorable action on the merits of the application is requested.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicant's undersigned agent invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,


John Pietrangelo
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 39, 331

September 28, 2001

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Drawings

The changes to the as-filed Figure 6 are highlighted in red on the attached marked-up copy of as-filed Figure 6.

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) Control and safety device allowing the ejection of a strip of material from a machine for dispensing strips comprising a drum (4) and a safety shaft (9) which shuts off the lower opening (11) through which the strip of material passes as it leaves the housing and drum, said drum and said shaft being linked by means of transmission (10) **[consisting of a belt] comprising at least one belt**, characterised in that said transmission means (10) is float mounted between drum (4) and shaft (9), the central part of the shaft that accommodates said belt and faces the groove on the drum being designed with a dolly axle (9a) configuration having a dimension that exceeds the width of the groove (4b) on drum (4) so as to allow sideways, slanting deflection of the belt over a limited amplitude (∞), thus tracking the direction in which the strip of paper is pulled longitudinally out of the dispensing machine by the user.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

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4. (Amended) Device as claimed in **[any of]** claim[s] 1 **[to 3]** characterised in that the dolly-axle shape (9a) of the shaft is laterally locked by the walls (9b) of shaft (9) forming a shoulder and limit stop.

Claims 5 through 7 are new.

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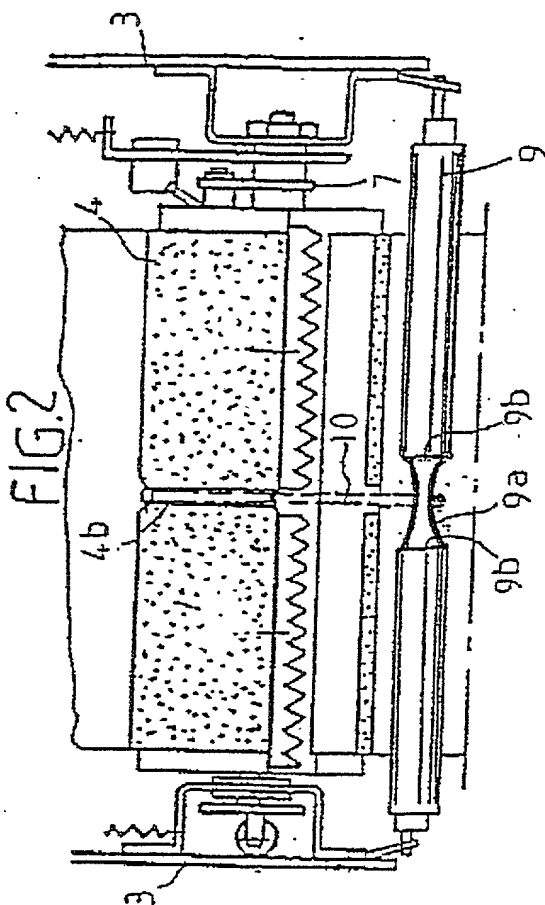


FIG. 1

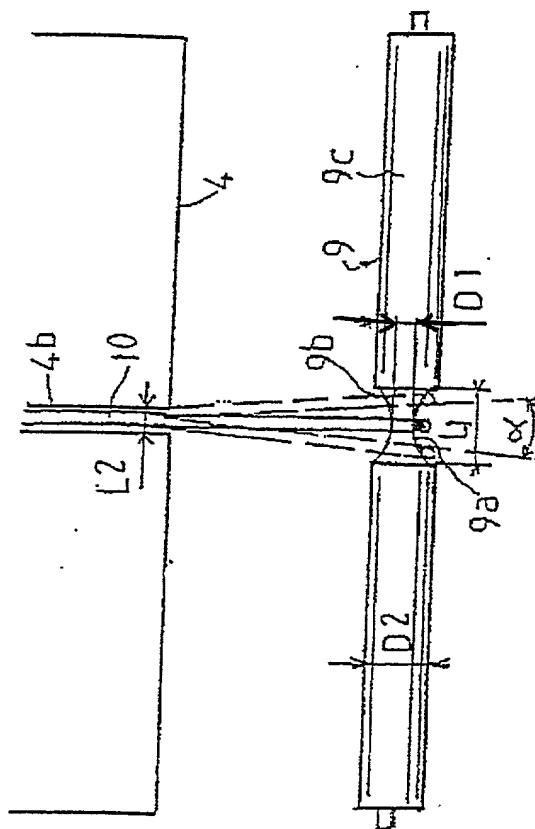


FIG. 2

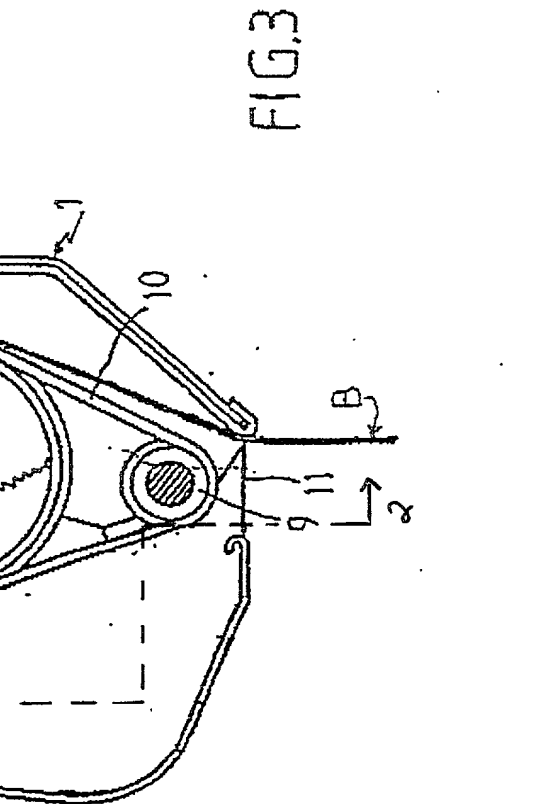


FIG. 3

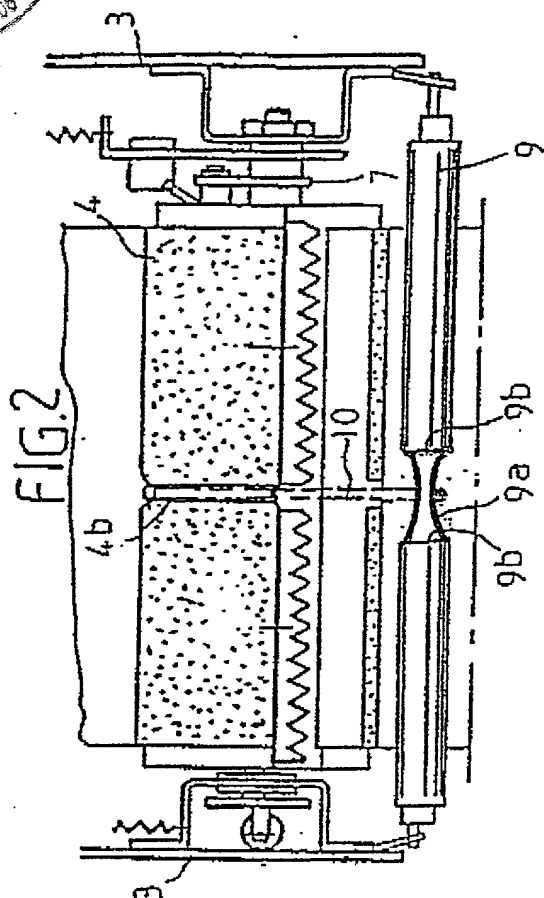
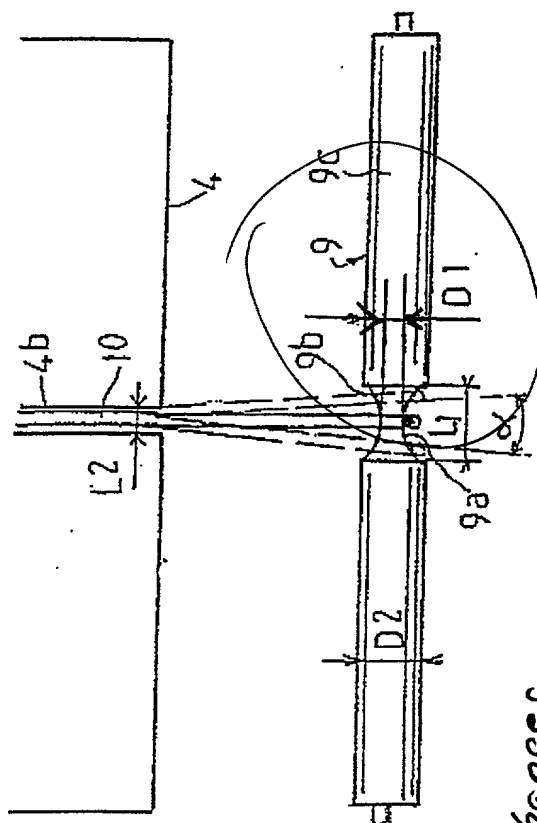
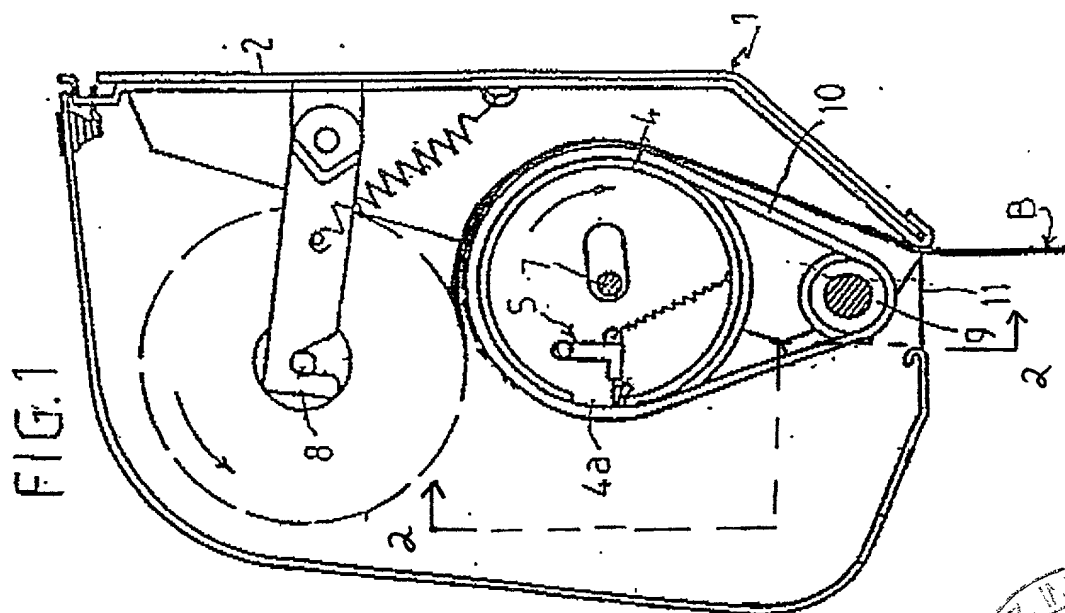


FIG. 2.



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Mark-up shows changes



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